

I CLAIM

1. (Amended) A method of data processing on a computer system, comprising:
using an application program to compose an electronic version of a document;
printing the document onto paper, the printed paper being steganographically
5 encoded with plural-bit auxiliary data; and
storing at least some of the plural-bit auxiliary data in association with data
identifying a location at which the electronic version of the document is stored.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the printing includes steganographically
10 encoding the printed paper with said plural-bit auxiliary data.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing includes storing in a registry
database maintained by an operating system of said computer system.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by the application
program.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a computer
system operating system.
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6. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a printer driver
employed in printing the document onto paper.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding of the printed
25 paper comprises subtle variations in the luminance of the document, which are
substantially imperceptible to casual human inspection, but which are detectable
through visible light imaging of the document and processing of image data thereby
produced.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding takes the form of tiny elements of ink or toner distributed in a pattern so light as to be essentially unnoticeable.